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FOUR YEARS OF CLUB WORK HAVE IMPROVED
MY HOME

A radio talk by Eloise Grant, 4-H club girl, Oswego County, New York, delivered in the 4-H club program, National Farm and Home Hour, Saturday, January 6, 1934, and broadcast by a network of 58 associate NBC radio stations.

I would hardly know where to begin to tell you just how much our home has been changed by 4-H Club Work because you know, I have been changed quite a bit myself by four years of club work. In the first place 4-H Club Work has been a family affair because my mother has been a local leader, and my sister, my three brothers and I are club members.

My mother was particularly interested in what she learned at local leader meetings about feeding the family. My brothers had garden projects and my sister and I have had projects in food preservation and dressing up home-grown vegetables. As a result of all these things which worked so well together, we now have a much larger garden with quantities of tomatoes, spinach, chard, carrots and all the rest. We are very proud of our cellar where large quantities of these vegetables are stored in cans and otherwise.

The food habits of my family are very different from what they were four years ago. Even the boys know about vitamins and minerals! And we have begun annual visits to the dentist too, because we know that good care of the teeth must go hand in hand with right food.

We have started building up a pure-bred herd of Ayrshires on our farm, since the boys have had the calf project. They have hens which are better egg producers because of their poultry projects. We have a better meat supply for the family because of the pig project in which the boys are especially interested. Our potatoes and our strawberries have improved greatly over a period of four years because we have learned the importance of certified seed and healthy plants.

You wouldn't believe what some old trunks and boxes in our attic turn out when my sister and I began the remodeled clothes project, when times got so hard. We have made over clothes for ourselves and for our younger sister who is now seven years old. We tried out on her the suggestions for "self help" garments when that idea was new and proved that they worked!

We have only recently become interested in the room improvement projects, but we have already rearranged the furniture in our bedrooms so that the light is better for our dressing tables and desks. We have done better cleaning and bedmaking and at the same time the work is easier. We know that color does much to make a room cheerful and warm and attractive so we have made curtains, pillow covers and desk sets, using dye and paint to keep the cost low. Our rooms are now not so hit or miss in appearance as they were before, but are more orderly and comfortable.

My brothers and sister and I -- and my mother says not to leave her out -- have learned to love to work together at home and with our clubs.

(over)

We have better times because club work brings friends together when we have parties as well as projects and camps and exhibits and trips. My brother and I have had a trip to the State Fair where we spent a week with lots of other club members and made many new friends. I have had three trips to our State College for State Club Congress and every time have been able to take back to my home new ideas for all of us.

There are eight children in my family. All of us know now that we want to go to college and I believe we will get there too. I give Club work credit even for that.

So you see I could never really separate out what Club work has done for my home. I seem to give it credit for almost everything.

I am sure that it has helped a lot to make my home a healthy, comfortable and happy place, and that it will be a good influence upon us children all our lives.